

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: November 12, 2010
Received: November 05, 2010
Status: Posted
Posted: November 12, 2010
Tracking No. 80b831c3
Comments Due: November 08, 2010
Submission Type: Web

Docket: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736

Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0558

Comment submitted by M. K. Gloster

Submitter Information

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General Comment

As a supporter of the family farms within New York's Chesapeake Bay watershed area, I ask that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revise New York's Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocation to a realistic and attainable standard and accept the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYS DEC) Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) which is an aggressive and realistic plan to protect water quality in New York's portion of the Bay watershed.

Clean water is a priority of New York farmers, who have worked for many years to protect the state's water resources under the most progressive water quality standards in the country. The EPA should revise New York's Chesapeake Bay TMDL allocation to more adequately reflect NY's environmental achievements, be more proportionate in accordance with science, account for NY's decreasing environmental footprint over the past decade and reflect that NY's water quality chemistry already meets Bay specifications for high water quality as required by EPA's TMDL. New York's state-wide environmental program achievements, as well as its unique landscape, growing conditions and seasonality - which differ from other five Bay watershed states - should all be accounted for in any Chesapeake Bay Program TMDL.

EPA should also adopt the model refinements recommended by the NYS DEC in their draft Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. The strategy presented in NYS DEC's WIP is an aggressive, achievable, credible, stakeholder driven plan which provides adequate assurances on NY's ability to achieve stated nutrient reductions. These requested model refinements reflect the environmental protection accomplishments New York State has already attained and truthfully represents the practices of environmental stewardship currently employed on New York's family farms.

New York's farm communities in the Bay watershed have serious concerns that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Reg